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Report of The Direct Legislation League of Manitoba

November 30th, 1912—December 31st, 1913

Direct Legislation has received a large amount of public attention during the past year and interest in the movement is growing steadily. The logic of events in educating the people to the necessity for this reform. There is a special need at the present time to emphasize the principles essential for its successful operation. This is proven by what has recently happened in our sister provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

A Direct Legislation Bill is now upon the statute books of Alberta which is, by reason of restrictive clauses, practically worthless.

The Legislature of Saskatchewan referred a weak Direct Legislation measure to the people in November, 1913, with the stipulation that thirty per cent of the electors must vote to ensure its passage. Only fifteen per cent of the electors polled their votes and no further action has been taken, although the vote polled was about four to one in favor of the measure.

British Columbia is waking up. This is evidenced by a request for literature and information which we have received from Mr. N. Wolverton, Nelson, B.C., chairman of a committee appointed at a recent convention of the Liberal party to study the questions of Direct Legislation and Proportional Representation. Mr. Wolverton has published a very able pamphlet on Proportional Representation, which he is circulating to those interested. He is also distributing a large number of copies of "Direct Legislation," by Robert L. Scott.

Lethbridge has secured the necessary changes in its Charter to establish the Commission form of Government, with the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, and is now governed by that system.

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In Manitoba we have maintained our campaign of education. Our speakers have addressed a large number of meetings in different parts of the Province. We have sent speakers by request to explain Direct Legislation to Grain Growers' Associations, Church Clubs, Literary Societies, Epworth Leagues, Sunday School Picnics, Brotherhood Meetings, Temperance Organizations, Trades Unions and similar bodies. We have distributed a large amount of free literature and answered numerous enquiries for information. One of the most useful services we have been able to perform has been

that of supplying debaters with material in favor of Direct Legislation. It is most encouraging to note the way in which Direct Legislation is being advocated by speakers not directly connected with our League. The requests we get for information indicate that this is one of the most widely discussed questions before the people of this province.

Our anniversary dinner, held on the 20th December, 1912, was a decided success, as was also the luncheon in honor of Mr. John Z. White, of Chicago, on April 11, 1913. The press gave good reports of the speeches on both occasions, and thus additional publicity was gained for the principles we are advocating.

A petition for a Referendum on Direct Legislation was presented to the Legislature of Manitoba on January 31, 1913. This petition was signed by 8,600 electors and was supported by a deputation composed of delegates from the various organizations affiliated with our league. Our President has written to the Premier and Members of the Government urging action on this petition, but nothing has been done.

A resolution in favor of Direct Legislation was introduced at the last session of Legislature by members of the Opposition. A very interesting debate followed, with the Opposition forces supporting Direct Legislation and the Government opposed. It is a matter of deep regret that this much needed reform should be made a party question when it might easily be settled by a direct vote of the people of Manitoba.

Since we presented our last annual report the Policital Equality League of Manitoba and the Independent Order of Good Templars have become affiliated with our League and appointed delegates to our executive. We welcome this valuable support, and hope for more of a similar nature.

As an instance of the beneficial influence the League is exerting in public affairs it is worth noting that quite recently the legislative committee of the Winnipeg City Council proposed that legislation be secured to raise the salaries of the Mayor, Aldermen and Controllers. Your executive wrote a letter of protest against that proposal, which undoubtedly had some influence in causing the matter to be dropped.

The withdrawal of the generous offer of Mr. Joseph Fels to duplicate the amount of money raised in this province for propaganda purposes threw us upon our own resources, and it is with genuine pleasure that we record our appreciation of the way in which our members have responded to our appeals for funds to carry on the work. We finish the financial year with a small balance to our credit and look forward to another year of progress in 1914. This report has been endorsed by the Executive Committee.

Yours truly,

F. J. DIXON,

Organizer.

CASH STATEMENT

November 30th, 1912 — December 31st, 1913

RECEIPTS.

Joseph Fels	$300.00
M. T. McKittrick	100.00
H. Leadlay	50.00
W. Watt	8.00
M. S. Adams	5.00
W. S. Archibald	25.00
H. Beattie	12.00
E. Beveridge	13.00
H. B. Beynon	10.00
Dr. S. G. Bland	5.00
R. E. Bryans	15.00
D. W. Buchanan	100.00
W. W. Buchanan	50.00
W. L. Burdick	25.00
G. F. Chipman	80.00
T. A. Crerar	100.00
G. Crossing	3.00
J. W. Dafoe	25.00
F. J. Dixon	50.00
Joseph Finkelstein	10.00
M. J. Finkelstein	60.00
D. Forrester	5.00
Rev. J. B. Freeman	2.00
R. J. Gourlay	50.00
A. M. Graham	2.00
J. R. Grant	6.00
D. S. Hamilton	50.00
R. J. Hardy	2.00
A. B. Hobbs	5.00
H. W. Hutchison	25.00
Dr. J. N. Hutchison	25.00
J. H. Jenkins	5.00
T. H. Johnson	25.00
John Kennedy	50.00
T. J. Langford	20 00
A. MacDonald	50.00
J. A. MacDonald	5.00
H. MacKenzie	50.00
E. D. Martin	50.00
M. E. McKittrick	6.00
J. L. Middleton	5.00
R. M. Mobius	10.00
W. Moffatt	10.00
F. W. Moore	5.00
J. R. Murray	50.00
D. E. Peddie	10.00
The Public Press	25.00
A. W. Puttee	4.50
E. J. Ransom	5.00
H. M. Richardson	2.00
R. L. Richardson	50.00
Chas. Robarts	5.00
H. F. M. Ross	6.00
J. Schichtl	15.00
R. L. Scott	150.00
E. C. Siddall	5.00
Rev. A. G. Sinclair	3.00
F. Steele	37.50
H. Steinberg	5.00
H. B. Stiles	5.00
D. Strachan	10.00
Tessler Bros.	3.00
A. V. Thomas	10.00
J. L. M. Thomson	3.00
C. J. Turnbull	25.00
J. W. Ward	30.00
G. G. White	5.00
N. C. Wright	5.00
J. S. Woodsworth	2.00
J. W. Wilton	60.00
Wpg. Printing & Engrav. Co.	10.00
Jas. Willoughby	10.00
C. E. Yockney	2.00
H. Cameron	2.00
Wm. Drummond	5.00
T. H. Drayson	6.00
Chas. Dobson	10.00
M. W. Fox	3.00
W. R. Ford	2.00
J. W. Gamey	5.00
H. Gaud	2.00
G. A. Grierson	10.00
Brandon, Souris and Deloraine Epworth League	5.00
H. Inman	2.00
W. J. Irvine	2.00
W. H. Jenkins	3.00
Archie Knox	2.00
T. J. Lamont	2.00
Ninga, per G. Love	6.00
H. Leathers	11.00
R. S. Lee	2.00
A. D. Longman	3.00
Chas. Longman	3.00
G. Love	2.00
John McLaren	2.00
M. McCuish	2.00
Dan MacFadyen	2.00
G. McIntyre	3.00
E. H. Massina	5.00

RECEIPTS (Continued).

H. L. Montgomery	50.00
A. W. Myles	2.00
Thos. Patterson	6.00
F. J. Pratt	2 00
J. H. Robertson	2.00
Cecil St. John	35.00
J. W. Scallion	10.00
E. Simpson	7.00
F. Simpson	6.00
J. Smithson	10.00
P. H. Spencer	2.00
James Stancombe	2.00
L. St. G. Stubbs	20.00
S. R. Turrell	2.00
Chas. W. Wedon	2.00
J. R. Williams	2.50
F. Williamson	2.00
L. Williamson	2.50
R. M. Wilson	6.00
W. M. Sifton	3.00
Per J. L. Manwaring	50.00
Subscriptions under $2 each and Collections	432.00
By Sale of Literature	10 84
Bank Interest	2.64
By Sale of Tickets to Annual Dinner	124.00
By Sale of Tickets to John Z. White Dinner	42.50
By Balance on Hand Nov. 30, 1912	620.50
	$3,620.48

EXPENDITURES.

Rent:	
Office	$455.00
Halls	56.00
Salaries:	
F. J. Dixon	1625.00
R. E. Bryans	295.00
Travelling Expenses:	
F. J. Dixon	220.90
A. W. Puttee	4.50
Telephone Rent	66.70
Advertising	55.02
Postage and Express	190.75
Printing, Stationery, etc.	275.90
Caterer's Fees	122.25
Sundries	245.26
	3,612 28
Balance on Hand	8.20
	$3,620.48

Audited and found correct.

HUGH MACKENZIE,

Auditor.

January 15th, 1914.